



Department of Justice

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Middle District of Florida

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NORTH PORT MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO DISTRIBUTING OXYCODONE TO HIS 15 YEAR OLD STEPSON, WHO DIED FROM IT

Tampa - United States Attorney A. Brian Albritton announces that Billy Jack Courtright (age 36, of North Port) today pleaded guilty to distributing oxycodone, the use of which resulted in death. Courtright faces a minimum mandatory term of 20 years and up to life in federal prison. Courtright's wife, Linda Kay Courtright, previously pleaded guilty to the same charge and faces the same penalties. The Courtrights are scheduled for sentencing on October 1, 2010.

According to the plea agreement, on June 19, 2009, Sarasota County 911 received a call about a death in room 107 of the Budget Inn Motel at 14000 S. Tamiami Trail in North Port. The room had previously been rented to Billy Courtright and was occupied by him, his wife, his wife's 15-year-old son, Nicholas Block, and the Courtrights' three other children. North Port Police Department (NPPD) detectives responding to the call discovered Nicholas dead in the room. An autopsy determined that he had died from Oxycodone intoxication. The NPPD's investigation revealed that, the night before Nicholas died, Courtright and his wife had given him the oxycodone.

This case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the North Port Police Department. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys

Matthew H. Perry and Susan Rothstein-Youakim.